



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**OFFICE OF CONSUMER COUNSEL**

**Remarks of Mary J. Healey, Consumer Counsel**

**ISO New England kicks off "Take Charge, Promoting  
Energy Efficiency Across New England"**

**Tuesday, June 20th, 2006 -- 12 noon  
State House Square, Hartford, CT**

Good afternoon,

I am very happy to be here today to support ISO-NE efforts in Energy Efficiency, Conservation and Load Management that will help to reduce peak demand, lower bills and help the environment in Connecticut in particular, and New England in general.

Energy efficiency is a very important part of the electric system and system planning. It is a well-established fact that the cheapest and cleanest megawatt is the one that you don't have to generate. The first consideration should continue to be energy efficiency as it lowers the overall costs, particularly during peak times, and can reduce the need for expensive infrastructure. In Connecticut, energy efficiency programs have since 2000 offset the equivalent of a 450 MW power plant in addition to the additional benefits of no emissions, no fuel increases, and no outages!

ISO-NE's effort will help to reinforce the message that Connecticut utility customers have heard, seen and subscribed to for years as we have targeted areas such as Southwest Connecticut, (which presently has a transmission constraint), for efficiency measures to reduce the summer peak. This partnership with ISO-NE, and the leadership shown throughout Connecticut, such as Governor Rell's "Energy Call to Action" to reduce energy usage in state buildings and the Connecticut Energy Advisory Board's (CEAB) goal of reducing electric peak and fossil fuel consumption 10% by 2010, will have great value until the inherent problems in our generation and transmission areas are solved.

Connecticut hit a record of 7011 MWs for peak electric demand last July. That meant higher costs this year in Connecticut. Let's not hit another record – and energy efficiency is vital to that goal!

The most recent data we have shows that we save approximately \$4 for every \$1 spent on energy efficiency, conservation and load management. ISO-NE's involvement in this effort will help to realize these savings. It would also be beneficial for the Legislature to restore all funding previously taken from the Energy Efficiency Fund as soon as possible. To this end, my office has supported the call for a special legislative session this summer to “restore the funds” and take other efforts to reduce costs and provide a cleaner environment for ratepayers.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on the vital matter of energy efficiency.